Information and Technology under the Plan Scheme 'IT for Masses' for development of SCs/STs during 2006-07 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Approved amount of Grant-in-aid
1.	Training of SC/ST Women in North-East in North-East (Sikkim)	Rs. 19.00 lacs Rs.
2.	Professional IT & Electronics Course for Upliftment of ST Youth & Women in Mizoram	18.00 iacs

The actual benefits attributable to these programmes will be assessed in due course.

(c) Under 'IT for Masses' programme budgetary allocation of Rs. 40.00 lacs exists for 2007-08. Suitable programmes for development of SCs/STs will be considered during 2007-08.

Exclusive privilege of conveying by post

4600. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Government had decided to keep exclusive privilege of conveying by post from one place to other, all articles weighing upto 150 gm:

whether it is also a fact that Government had asked the private players to charge five times more for unregistered mails and 2.5 times in case of express mails compared to Government tariff; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The existing Section *4* of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 bestows exclusive privilege on the Central Government to handle letters with some exceptions. There is a proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. However, the proposed amendments are yet to be finalized.